Course Description

Introduces the fundamentals and techniques of writing plays. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to improve and focus student creativity and writing in drama.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Students must have successfully completed ENG 112, College Composition II or ENG 125, Introduction to Literature, or the equivalent, or received division approval.

Course Objectives

GOAL ONE: LEARNING BASIC TERMS AND TECHNIQUES
Students will learn the language and techniques they need to approach dramatic writing meaningfully. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

. use the standard terms that describe plot development, character development, dialogue, and stage directions; and
. apply their understanding of these terms to their writing and the writing of others.

GOAL TWO: READING CRITICALLY
Students will learn to read analytically and interpretively. By the end of the course, students will have:

. read a number of works and discussed these works in terms of their effectiveness;
. engaged in classroom reading, discussions and exercises that illustrate approaches to plot, character, and dialogue; and
. recognized the validity of different perspectives in the interpretation of drama.

GOAL THREE: WRITING SKILLS
Students will continue to improve their writing skills. By the end of the course, students will have:

. written at least one properly formatted ten-minute play;
. written at least one properly formatted opening teaser of a screenplay;
. written other playwriting exercises as appropriate;
. attended a play production and written a critical analysis of the script and production; and
. engaged in all phases of the writing process, including planning, drafting, revising and polishing.

Major Topics to be Included

- The meaning of creativity
- Elements of drama
- Playwriting techniques
- Formatting
- Role of criticism
- Play production
- Screenwriting